

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

20. (new) A molten carbonate fuel cell comprising: a bipolar separator; an anode current collector; and an electronically conductive reforming catalyst, which is arranged between the bipolar separator and the anode current collector and contains particles of a water-adsorbent substrate material and particles of a catalyst material located on the substrate material, whereby the substrate material itself provides an electronically conductive connection between the bipolar separator and the anode current collector.

21. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the reforming catalyst has a specific conductivity that exceeds 1 S/cm under operating conditions.

22. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the substrate material is composed of an electronically conductive metal oxide.

23. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 22, wherein the substrate material is composed of at least one substance of the group consisting of ZnO, TiO₂, Fe₂O₃, LiFeO₂, Mn₂O₃, and SnO₂.

24. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the substrate material is a water-adsorbent material that is doped with impurity ions.

25. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 24, wherein the substrate material consists of at least one substance of the group consisting of aluminum-doped zinc oxide (AZO), indium-doped tin oxide (ITO), and antimony-doped tin oxide (ATO).

26. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the catalyst material consists of nickel.

27. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the particles of catalyst material are formed as small islands on the substrate material.

28. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 27, wherein the small islands of catalyst material have a size on the order of a few nanometers.

29. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 20, wherein the catalyst is formed as a layer.

30. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 29, wherein the catalyst is formed as a flat film-like material.

31. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 29, wherein the catalyst is formed as a coating applied on a component of the fuel cell.

32. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 31, wherein the coating that forms the catalyst is applied to the current collector of the fuel cell.

33. (new) The molten carbonate fuel cell in accordance with claim 31, wherein the coating that forms the catalyst is applied to the bipolar separator of the fuel cell.

34. (new) A method for producing an electronically conductive reforming catalyst, which is arranged between a bipolar separator and an anode current collector of a fuel cell, especially a molten carbonate fuel cell, which catalyst includes particles of a water-adsorbent substrate material, and particles of a catalyst material located on the substrate material, whereby the substrate material itself provides an electronically conductive connection between the bipolar separator and the anode current collector, the method comprising the steps of: producing a slurry

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or a paste from the substrate material that supports the catalyst material; forming the slurry or paste into a layer 1; and sintering the layer.

35. (new) The method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the layer is formed by one of film casting, dipping, spraying, rolling, or application by a doctor blade.

36. (new) The method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the sintering of the layer is carried out outside the fuel cell during production as a separate step of the method.

37. (new) The method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the sintering of the layer is carried out in situ when the fuel cell is started up with the catalyst already incorporated in the fuel cell.